(c) what steps Government propose to take to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) The Government are aware of the news-item published in the daily "Times of India" dated 2nd April, 1988 to the effect that the Indian tyres exported to Afghanistan are finding their way back into India through Pakistan resulting in some black marketeers allegedly earning huge profits on account of export rebate given on such tyres. The news-item is, however, vague and does not say where and in what manner the "exported Indian tyres" are re-imported into India "on their way back into India via Peshawar and Karachi".

Change in the excise rules and tariffs

1507. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received representations from National level small scale industries associations regarding damaging effects of changes in excise rules and tariffs in the recent Budget under 44AC and 206 as regards duty on scrap sold and used by foundries and waste sold as cotton waste and withdrawals of Notification No. 190/87;

(b) whether the changes have adversely affected the working of the small scale foundry and engineering industries and other small traders which may affect the financial health of industry and also employment potential; and

(c) whether his Ministry will reconsider these changes in excise rules and tariffs to save the small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) A number of representations were received from different associations regarding withdrawal of Noft. 190/87-CE dt. 4-8-87. In terms of above notification, the benefit of higher notional Modvat credit, which was admissible to manufacturers using inputs produced by SSI units, at the rate of ten percentage point, was sought to be withdrawn from the 1st Sept. 1987. However, the benefit was allowed to be continued till 31-3-88. On a review of the scheme, it was decided to reduce the extent of notional higher credit from maximum limit of 10 per cent points to 5 per cent ad valorem for a period of one year ending 31-3-1989. The Finance Bill, 1988, as passed by Lok Sabha, excludes scrap and waste products from the purview of section 44AC and 206C of the Income-tax Act.

Employment generation by irrigation projects

1508. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the results of the study conducted by the Central Water Commission regarding actual generation of employment by the projects in the irrigation sector, requirements and surpluses of different categories of manpower from 82 irrigation projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): Studies carried out on a few projects on the basis of data received indicate that per crore of rupees spent annually, about 70 technical persons and 240 others could be employed by project authorities. No study on surpluses or deficiencies of different categories of manpower has been made by the Central Water Commission.

Financial Crisis in MCD

1509. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Corporation, Delhi is on the verge of financial crisis due to wasteful expenditure and it may not be able to pay even the salaries to its employees:

(b) whether it is also a fact that the DDA and NDMC have to pay huge arrears

in favour Municipal Corporation, Delhi and the said amount has not been collected so far; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken for recouping the financial position of Municipal Corporation, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise. However, directions were issued to the Delhi Administration to ensure that the payments due to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi are made by the N.D.M.C.

Incident of tigress bite in Delhi zoo

1510. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of biting by a tigress has recently taken place in the Delhi Zoo;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether adequate security arrangements are not available in the Zoo;

(d) whether it is also a fact that First Aid Facility is also not available at the Zoo; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to provide necessary medical facilities at the Zoo in the event of any mishap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 20-3-1988 a child named Nitin crossed the protective railing of the White Tigers enclosure and put his right hand through the bars into the enclosure. The white tigress which had cubs, charged and bit off the child's hand close to the shoulder. The child was taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for treatment.

(c) Security arrangements are adequate.

(d) and (e) First aid for minor cases of injury is provided in the Zoo. However, major cases like the one which occurred on 20-3-1988 cannot be handled at the Zoo and have to be handled at appropriate hospitals.

Irrigation projects in Orissa

1511. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:
SHRI JAGDISH JANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation projects proposed to be set up in Orissa during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) the details of the projects completed/under completion;

(c) the details of projects abandoned, if any; and

(d) the reasons for abandoing them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) 8 major and 30 medium projects are under implementation in the Seventh Plan. Of these, 2 major and 15 medium projects are expected to be completed during the Seventh Plan period.

(c) and (d) The State Government have nit reported abandoned of any project as such.

Modvat benefit for aerated water industry

1512. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MODVAT benefit was given to aerated water industry in 1987 because of the increase in excise;

(b) if so, whether the benefit is still continuing; and